

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-07 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OPIC-03
INT-05 FEAE-00 /112 W
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R 281244Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5039
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10678

ISLAMABAD FOR NYE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IN, JP MNUC, PARM
SUBJECT: JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 10367

SUMMARY: THE FACT THAT JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HATOYAMA VISITED INDIA LAST WEEK IS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT HE DID HERE. BOTH SIDES ARE PLEASED WITH THE VISIT, BUT NEITHER HAS TRIED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE. THE JAPANESE URGED THE INDIANS TO SIGN THE NPT-- WHICH THEY SAID THEY WONT DO-- AND MORARJI DESAI TOLD HATOYAMA THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WHILE HE REMAINED PRIME MINISTER. TEAMS WILL BE GOING BACK AND FORTH TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE INDIANS WE'VE TALKED TO SEEM MORE UPBEAT THAN THE JAPANESE ABOUT WHAT MAY RESULT.
END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE FOREIGN MINSTER IICHIRO HATOYAMA VISITED NEW DELHI
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JULY 19-22 IN THE COURSE OF A SOUTH ASIAN SWING WHICH INCLUDED CALLS AT Dacca AND KATHMANDU. THE VISIT, THE FIRST A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS MADE HERE IN SEVEN YEARS, WAS ARRANGED AT GOJ INITIATIVE. DURING HIS STAY, HATOYAMA CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI, CONFERRED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE AND HIS MINISTRY COLLEAGUES, AND MET WITH SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS HOLDING ECONOMIC PORTFOLIOS.

2. THE FACT THAT THE VISIT TOOK PLACE WAS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LIMITED AGREEMENTS REACHED OR THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN THE COURSE OF IT. BUT NEITHER THE JAPANESE NOR THE INDIAN PARTICIPANTS WE HAVE SPOKEN TO HAVE TRIED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TALKS HAD ANY MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE OR REPRESENTED A NOTEWORTHY CHANGE IN EITHER COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY APPROACH. THE TWO SIDES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RAISE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL THE REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH THEY HOLD. TILL NOW, THE DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN HEADED BY THE JAPANESE DEPUTY MINISTER AND THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY. BOTH OUR MEA AND JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCES POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THIS SCHEDULE CAN BE ADHERED TO: BOTH, NEVERTHELESS, WELCOME THE DECISION AS AN INDICATION THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WISH TO UPGRADE THEIR RELATIONS. THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT A TEAM OF INDIAN EXPERTS SHOULD VISIT JAPAN TO EXAMINE THE PROSPECT OF GETTING JAPANESE COLLABORATION FOR HEAVY AND LIGHT INDUSTRY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE PROMOTION OF MEDIUM AND SMALL INDUSTRIAL UNITS. JAPAN WOULD SEND SURVEY TEAMS TO INDIA TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS OF COOPERATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES. HATOYAMA ALSO PLEDGED IN HIS REPLY TO VAJPAYEE'S KBANQUET TOAST, THAT JAPAN WOULD NEVER FAIL TO DO ITS SHARE IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA.

3. COMMENTING ON THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, FIRST SECRETARY KENZO OSHIMA WAS NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE. HE
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DID NOT THINK THAT PRIVATE JAPANESE BUSINESS FIRMS WOULD EXPRESS MUCH INTEREST IN INVESTING IN INDIA. MEA SOURCES HAVE BEEN MORE UPBEAT, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE COLLABORATION IN SETTING UP A SHIP-BUILDING YARD AND AN ALUMINUM PLANT. THESE PROJECTS ARE BEING PUSHED BY THE ENERGETIC NEW STEEL MINISTER, BIJU PATNAIK, ONE OF THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WHO MET WITH HATOYAMA.

4. NUCLEAR POLICY. AS TOLD HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL), HATOYAMA URGED THE INDIANS TO SIGN THE NPT.

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R 281244Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10678

ISLAMABAD FOR NYE

HE SAID IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE JAPANESE TO AGREE TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITHINDIA IF THE INDIANS SIGNED, BUT DID NOT MAKE IT A CONDITION FOR SUCH COOPERATION. (BUT ACCORDING TO OSHIMA, THERE WAS NO TALK ABOUT THE FORMS WHICH COOPERATION MIGHT TAKE.) VAJPAYEE, WE ARE TOLD, GAVE THE STANDARD INDIAN ARGUMENT AGAINST THE "DISCRIMINATORY" NPT, AND SAID THE GOI'S SIGNING IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. HATOYAMA ENUNCIATED WHAT HE CALLED THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR POLICY: NON-MANUFACTURE, NON-INTRODUCTION, AND NON-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. VAJPAYEE SAID THE GOI SUBSCRIBED TO ALL OF THESE AND STRESSED THAT INDIA WAS FULLY COMMITTED NOT TO GO THE WEAPONS ROUTE.

5. PNES. OSHIMA TELLS US THAT ON THE QUESTION OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, VAJPAYEE QUOTED T HATOYAMA DESAI'S RECENT REMARKS IN THE LOK SABHA (NEW DELHI 9999). DESAI, HE SAYS, WENT FURTHER DURING HATOYAMA'S COURTESY CALL, STATING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT AS LONG AS HE WAS PM THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

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6. THE HATOYAMAPARTY DID NOT INCLUDE ANY NUCLEAR EXPERTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF NUCLEAR MATTERS DID NOT GO BEYOND THE GENERAL. ACCORDING TO OSHIMA, THE JAPANESE REVIEWED FOR THE INDIANS THE TALKS THEY WERE HAVING WITH THE US ABOUT THE TOKAIMURA REPROCESSINGPLANT IN A GENERAL WAY. THE INDIANS DISCUSSED THEIR NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND GAVE WHAT OSHIMA CALLED THEIR STANDARD POSITION. ACCORDING TO HIM, SECRETARY VELLODI (THE SENIOR MEA AUTHORITY ON NUCLEAR MATTERS) TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT THE GOI WAS DETERMINED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BOW TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE OR INFLUENCE IN WORKING OUT THEIR NUCLEAR POLICY, AND SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THE INDIANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. THE ISSUE

CAME UP DURING THE OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS AND WAS NOT RAISED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXCHANGE.

7. THE EXCHANGE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS CAME IN THE COURSE OF A WIDE-RANGING, AGENDA-LESS DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. BOTH SIDES TELLS US THAT LITTLE OF NOTE CAME UP BEYOND A REITERATION OF FAMILIAR POSITIONS. THE JAPANESE HAVE INVITED MORARJI TO VISIT JAPAN-- HE AND PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA ARE OLD FRIENDS FROM THE DAYS WHEN BOTH HELD FINANCE PORTFOLIOS-- BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET.

8. FOOTNOTE. THE INDIAN PRESS JULY 27 CARRIED REPORTS FROM TOKYO THAT HATOYAMA HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE GOJ "CLOSER COOPERATION" WITH INDIA AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN JAPAN'S EMERGING NEW ASIS POLICY. THE RECOMMENDATION WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN A REPORT SUBMITTED TO FUKUDA BY HATOYAMA FOLLOWING HIS VISIT HERE. THE REPORT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE IMPRESSED FUKUDA. IT IS SAID TO TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF SHIFTS IN GOI POLICY UNDER DESAI AND TO RECOMMEND THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE CHANGES JAPAN SHOULD OFFER CLOSER COOPERATION TO THE NEW GOI
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